



Lyle and the Birthday Party

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Mrs. Primm fears Lyle the crocodile is terribly sick, when in reality he's just “green” over Joshua's birthday party.

Lyle and the Birthday Party Details

Date : Published August 31st 1973 by HMH Books for Young Readers (first published 1966)

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Author : Bernard Waber

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From Reader Review Lyle and the Birthday Party for online ebook

David Ward says

Lyle and the Birthday Party by Bernard Waber (Turtleback Books 1973) (Fiction – Children's). Lyle the Crocodile's family thinks he is ill, but he's just jealous over Joshua's birthday party. Fortunately Ms. Primm figures things out, and Lyle has a birthday party – his first ever! My rating; 7/10, finished 1973.

Kelly says

Another good Lyle book.

Laura says

I plan on reading this book to help create a better classroom environment. Right now, my kids are not always being kind to one another and I'm working to address teasing and bickering. This book can accompany our discussions on being a "bucket filler" - helping others makes us happy. We can brainstorm ways children can be kind to each other and help each other and observe how Lyle felt happy when he was useful and helpful to others, so much so, he forgot about being jealous.

New vocab:

- streamers
- jealous
- sulk
- accident
- ashamed
- moped

I will also use this as a read aloud before assigning new classroom jobs:

- daily five signs - Kiara
- person of the day cup - Ivanna
- calendar - Moa
- sweep - Liam
- pencils - Gerson
- gluesticks and scissors - Abner
- errands to office - Dylan
- student folders - Perla
- desk alphabets, desk number lines - Clarybell, Dylan
- chairs - Jose
- bucket fillers - Chloe and Kairo
- Computer helper - Chloe and Kairo
- English helper - Chloe
- Reading helper - Kairo
- whiteboard eraser - Melanie

Kate Foran says

Long and rambling but also funny with a good, light message. Feelings of jealousy are complicated.

Sarah Sammis says

Lyle is jealous of Joshua's birthday party and then depressed and ends up in hospital.

Luisa Knight says

Lyle gets a little green with jealousy over a birthday party but going to the hospital and doing kind deeds helps him feel better again.

Ages: 4 - 8

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Catherine says

Although the book is a bit wordy and lengthy for First grade, it is a great story about feeling envy even when you don't want to. As always, Lyle is gentle and entertaining. As a read aloud, it takes a little longer than than I prefer for 6 year olds, but it is a good social story.

Mandy J. Hoffman says

I read this book when I was a kid! Lyle is a crocodile and in this book he becomes jealous which makes him physically ill until he learns that doing things for others is more fun than always having things be about you.

Lela says

This book has such a positive message about being happy for others and finding happiness in being selfless. Also, the pictures are adorable and have a nice simplicity to them -- I love Lyle's expressions! I'd like to get a

Helen says

Filled my heart with joy. Poor little Lyle the crocodile is jealous of his human "brother" Joshua's birthday party. He is a good little crocodile, and tries desperately hard not to feel so envious, but he almost chokes on his own bitterness, watching Joshua opening his presents and blowing out the candles on his cake.

My favourite bit of the book: "By the time the party was over, Lyle was in a dark, dreadful mood. He hardly recognised himself. While Joshua thanked his guests for coming, Lyle just stood by sulking and scarcely waved goodbye. Everyone was so surprised. This wasn't a bit like the Lyle they knew and loved.

To make matters worse, that very night Lyle stepped through a toy drum, a favorite [sic] birthday gift of Joshua's. Everyone said it was an accident and Lyle shouldn't feel bad about it.

But was it an accident? Lyle went to bed not feeling at all sure."

I love a good, flawed character.

Poor Lyle eventually becomes so ill with jealousy, and ensuing shame, the good hearted Primms who adopted him get him admitted to a human hospital. Thankfully, everybody are very blasé and tolerant of a crocodile in the hospital. Lyle sorts himself out; redeeming, healing and forgiving himself by helping all the other patients around him with lots of good deeds.

Then back home, he is thrown a special party ?! Is Lyle over indulged and rewarded for bad behaviour? Or is he just a sweet little croc, doing his best to manage overwhelming, complicated, demonic emotions he doesn't have the tools to manage, being doted on and loved by the Primms, who understand that little ones struggle sometimes, and occasionally need a big old party of their own.

Jess says

July 2017 - another one of those long, old-fashioned picture books where the text does most of the heavy lifting (although the pictures are fun). We haven't read the first one yet, but Ben seems to enjoy all the party stuff.

Callie Stillion says

Joshua is having his birthday party and Lyle is feeling unusually jealous. He tries to hide it but the next day Lyle simply can't do it anymore! Mrs.Primm thinks that Lyle is sick, but the day Lyle goes to the hospital, he is helping everyone. The Primms are happy that Lyle is their loving croc again. And for living with them for three years the Primms throw him a special party!

Lynn Davidson says

Lyle the crocodile found he was jealous because he didn't ever have birthday parties. He was so miserable he was taken to the hospital, which made his friends aware that something had to be done for him.

James says

I really liked this one because it talked about birthdays cuz I like my birthday. It's very fun.

Kathy (Kindle-aholic) says

The preschooler was iffy on this one. I think because we hit it mid-series vs starting from the beginning. There was a little back story, but the whole thing of a crocodile living with a human family as a member of the family is only barely touched on.

Still, it was cute. Reminded me of Curious George.
